

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of reducing perceived pain resulting from puncturing of skin at a puncture site, said method comprising:

generating a sensory distraction at or adjacent the puncture site; and

puncturing the skin at the puncture site simultaneously with or after the generation of the sensory distraction.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating a sensory distraction and the step of puncturing the skin are performed using a single device.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating a sensory distraction comprises impacting the puncture site with a stimulator member.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of impacting the puncture site with a stimulator member comprises implementing a varied length scheme for timing the puncturing simultaneously with or after the stimulator impact.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of impacting the puncture site with a stimulator member comprises implementing a two-stage scheme for timing the puncturing simultaneously with or after the stimulator impact.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sensory distraction comprises vibration, sound, an impact, electrical stimulation, or heat directly to the skin.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of generating a sensory distraction comprises manually pumping or compressing pointed teeth against the skin at the puncture site.

11. (Original) A device for penetrating the skin of a human or animal subject, comprising:

means for puncturing the skin at a puncture site; and

means for generating a sensory distraction at or adjacent the puncture site before or simultaneously with the puncturing of the skin.

12. (Currently amended) The device of Claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the means for puncturing the skin comprises a lancet ~~or a hypodermic needle~~.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The device of Claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the means for generating a sensory distraction comprises a stimulator member and the means for puncturing the skin comprises a lancet.

17. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 16, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet, and means for puncturing the skin further comprising comprises a single drive spring for driving both the stimulator member and the lancet.

18. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 16, further comprising a stimulator drive spring for driving the stimulator member and a lancet drive spring for driving the lancet.

19. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 18, further comprising a lancet drive member that is driven by the lancet drive spring and that has a trigger finger, wherein the stimulator member includes an actuator contact surface that engages the trigger finger to fire the lancet.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 18, further comprising a plurality of protrusions for generating the sensory distraction.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A lancing device for penetrating skin, comprising:

a housing;

a lancet having a puncturing tip, wherein the lancet travels along a lancing travel path toward an extended position with the lancet tip extending out of the housing to puncture the skin at a puncture site; and

a stimulator member having an impacting portion, wherein the stimulator member travels along a stimulating travel path toward an extended position with the stimulating portion extending out of the housing to impact the skin at or adjacent the puncture site to create a sensory distraction at or adjacent the puncture site before or simultaneously with the puncturing of the skin.

27. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member is elongated.

28. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member impacting portion is defined by a blunt tip.

29. (New) The device of Claim 26, further comprising a stimulator return spring that retracts the stimulator member impacting portion from the extended position back into the housing, and a lancet return spring that retracts the lancet tip from the extended position back into the housing.

30. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member and the lancet are arranged in a side-by-side arrangement.

31. (New) The device of Claim 26, further comprising a single drive spring for driving both the stimulator member and the lancet.

32. (New) The device of Claim 26, further comprising a single drive member that is driven by the single drive spring and that in turn drives the stimulator and the lancet.

33. (New) The device of Claim 32, wherein the stimulator member has a drive surface and the lancet has a drive surface, and wherein the drive member has a contact surface that engages the drive surfaces of the stimulator member and the lancet to drive forward both the stimulator member and the lancet.

34. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the stimulator drive surface and the lancet drive surface are generally laterally aligned, and wherein the drive member contact surface is generally flat.

35. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet.

36. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet.